



THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF IRANIAN KURDISTAN (PDKI)
A Foundation for a Democratic, Federal, and Stable Iran

Washington, D.C. — August 18, 2026

Distinguished guests, participants in the commemoration of the 81st anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan in Washington,
On this occasion, I extend my congratulations to the entire leadership, cadres, Peshmerga members, and supporters of the Democratic Party.

At the same time, I bow in deepest respect to the memory and sacrifice of the thousands who were imprisoned, executed, or forced into exile in defense of this cause, enabling our Party to endure with strength and dignity.

My thanks and respect go to all of you participating in this commemorative gathering in Washington, the capital of the United States of America. I am honored that, as Secretary General of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, I have the opportunity at this gathering to briefly present the objectives and policies of our Party, to deepen your understanding of it.

Against the backdrop of shifting regional dynamics and anticipated political change, the future structure of Iran and the unresolved national question have once again become central to debate. Among the possible models for a democratic alternative, national-territorial federalism offers the most viable framework for accommodating Iran's multinational reality. Within such a system, the Kurdish movement and the country's national regions would play a decisive role in shaping a stable and democratic future.

Accordingly, any strategy for political change in Iran must rest on two foundations: an equitable balance among the country's national regions, and a democratic framework based on negotiation, agreement, and democratic consensus. The ultimate objective of any future political process must be to resolve the national question by ending the center's monopoly over political authority and unilateral decision-making, while guaranteeing the meaningful participation and shared sovereignty of all nations. Recognizing Iran as a multinational country cannot be postponed until after a transition or set aside under political pretexts. It must be accepted from the outset as a foundational principle of any political agreement, transition framework, and future constitutional order.

This recognition should guide the design of a political system capable of ensuring democratic, equitable, and voluntary coexistence among all of Iran's nations.

In the history of the Kurdish nation's liberation struggle, the national-democratic movement of Iranian Kurdistan in general, and the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan in particular, have a long record of struggle and perseverance. The struggle to achieve the right to self-determination, preserve our identity and homeland, and secure the legitimate rights of our nation has remained among the unchanging principles of this movement.

In modern history, the Kurdish movement has developed strong political organization, a broad presence on the ground, and proven influence within Iran's internal and regional dynamics. Despite sustained repression and repeated periods of crisis, it has never been a temporary or peripheral force, but a

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continuous and resilient political movement. The national movement of Iranian Kurdistan also presents a clear and modern political project for the future of both Kurdistan and Iran, grounded in self-determination and participatory democracy. An approach that seeks to marginalize this movement will not resolve Iran's underlying crisis. It will only undermine the prospects for lasting stability.

Kurdistan possesses its own political agency, social capital, national consciousness, and organized capacity. It should therefore be understood not as part of the problem, but as an essential part of the solution to instability in Iran and the broader Middle East. No credible political transition in Iran can succeed without recognizing the Kurdish people's political will, national rights, and legitimate claim to shared sovereignty.

Contrary to centralist and chauvinist policies and perceptions, Iran's national diversity and plural composition are not a threat. Rather, they are an opportunity and a fundamental basis for building a stable and democratic future. Recognizing this diversity and guaranteeing national rights on an equal basis are essential to anchoring any political process in Iran in peaceful and voluntary coexistence. Genuine federalism never means the dissolution or partition of the country. Rather, it is an advanced political and administrative mechanism for bringing diverse components together within a common democratic framework.

This system transfers power from a single center to a form of shared governance in which the equality of nations, the protection of distinct identities, and the fair distribution of responsibilities and rights become the foundation of stability and voluntary coexistence. The participation and consent of all nations must form the basis of a legitimate political order and a durable social contract.

By contrast, imposed rule and the concentration of power at the center deepen mistrust, instability, and internal conflict. Iran's structural crisis cannot be resolved through continued political monopoly. A sustainable future requires fundamental change based on dialogue, negotiation, and agreement among the country's nations. Protecting national identity is equally essential for marginalized nations. This means safeguarding their political, cultural, linguistic, and physical existence against assimilation and exclusion.

No political system can credibly call itself democratic while denying the human and national rights of the peoples within a multinational country. Genuine democracy and national rights are therefore inseparable principles.

First, the national regions must be recognized as principal political participants in shaping the roadmap for the transition.

Second, an inclusive legal framework must be established under which all nations and components are assured that their political rights will be protected.

Third, the mechanisms of genuine federalism must be implemented in order to end the center's monopoly and the policy of occupation, and to ensure the fair distribution of power and resources.

Fourth, a framework must be created for balanced dialogue among all political parties and civil society, encompassing every class and sector of society.

History and political realities have demonstrated that without securing national rights, democracy can never take root; and without deep and genuine democracy, nations cannot be liberated from subjugation. The future of Iran must therefore be built on shared political sovereignty and the equality of all nations. Otherwise, repeating the past will produce no stability for the future.

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We also emphasize that without redefining the concept of the nation in Iran, relations of occupation will persist indefinitely.

These requirements are fundamental conditions for ensuring that the transition process becomes the beginning of a lasting and effective democracy.

Finally, as the Democratic Party, and having assessed the opportunities and threats facing the national movement of Kurdistan, we remain mindful of our historic responsibility.

We insist upon national consensus and joint struggle with the other nations, as well as with democratic and freedom-seeking movements, for the overthrow of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and for building an Iran fundamentally different from the past.

Thank you.

Mustafa Hejri

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